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USCINCENT//CCPA, USCENCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR JO](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON MIDDLE EAST

Summary

-- Lead story in all papers today, June 19, highlights reports about yesterday's suicide bus bombing in Jerusalem. Headlines refer to it as "the Jerusalem operation". Reports also focus on Israel's decision to retaliate in Palestinian Authority areas. Editorial commentaries continue to criticize Israel's occupation and its aggression against the Palestinian people. One columnist today holds the United States "fully responsible" for the destruction and assassinations taking place in the Palestinian territories.

Editorial Commentary

-- "Giving Sharon the excuse!"

Daily columnist Yaser Za'atreh writes on the op-ed page of center-left, influential Arabic daily Al-Dustour (06/19): "They said that the heroic Jerusalem operation is going to give Sharon the excuse he needs to escalate his aggressions against the Palestinians people. Yet, the Palestinians wonder when did Sharon stop those aggressions in the first place. Giving in to Sharon's security and then political conditions is the only guaranteed way to stop the aggressions against the Palestinian people. However, it is a way that is not acceptable to the principles, values, dignity and pride know to all free people. The heroic Jerusalem operation and operations before it fall within the category of resistance, combating occupation and convincing the whole world that ending the occupation is the only solution. The Palestinian people and their leadership are being humiliated, and there is no response to that other than continuing the resistance."

-- "Will the Israeli ever learn the lesson?"

Daily columnist Jamil Nimri writes on the back page of independent, mass-appeal Arabic daily Al-Arab Al-Yawm 906/19): "Yesterday's operation in Jerusalem says it all about the effectiveness of the dividing wall that Sharon is building. Insisting on dealing with the Palestinian people with brutality, oppression and humiliation has only succeeded in entrenching the anger and the rage and the willingness to die, so that more and more young men ready for martyrdom operations."

-- "The American green light"

Daily columnist Fahd Fanek writes on the back page of semi-official, influential Arabic daily Al-Ra'i (06/19): "Bush is the one asking the Arabs and the Palestinians to bear their responsibilities so that his vision of the Palestinian state can come into reality. Israel is never asked to do anything. It is doing more than its share. Even more than that, Sharon is a man of peace according to Bush, and Arafat is a terrorist. This sums up America's vision and its policies towards this region. Saying that American gives Sharon the green light to act is actually belittling American's role in the events of the Israeli aggression. In fact, American is not only allowing Sharon to do what he sees fit, but is also instigating him, arming him, financing him and providing him with a moral and legal cover in order to protect him from the United Nations and the world. America bears full responsibility for what is happening in the West Bank."

GNEHM